



REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 19-21, 25, 27, and 28 are now pending in this application. In the Office Action mailed September 25, 2001, Claims 1-10, 12-15, 19-21, 25, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Microsoft Windows 95 Uncut ("Windows95"). In addition, Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). This Amendment amends Claims 1, 6-7, 12-15, 21, 25, and 27 to overcome these rejections. In addition, Claim 7 has been amended to correct a typographical error. New Claim 28 has also been added.

Applicants and applicants' attorney thank the Examiner for the telephone interview conducted on November 7, 2001, a summary of which is provided below. Briefly, the Examiner suggested emphasizing that both registered and unregistered applications may utilize the present invention, and that the prior art discloses only registered applications behaving in the manner described in the present invention. Additionally, the Examiner suggested a functional claim relating to the subject matter of Claim 19; accordingly, one has been so provided.

Summary of Interview with Examiner on November 7, 2001:

Initially, the Examiner expressed concern with previous versions of Windows anticipating the present invention when coupled with Office 95 or Office 97 products by Microsoft. However, after a careful review of the references with the applicants' attorney, it was mutually determined that previous versions of Windows alone or in combination with Office 95 or Office 97 did not produce the present invention, as they only were operable with registered applications. Accordingly, it was suggested that the language "registered or unregistered applications" be used instead of simply "applications," and that this would overcome the rejections in the Office Action. Additionally, it was noted in the interview that while Claim 19 does not specifically mention applications, none of the references of either Windows 95, Office 95 or Office 97 teach including a document folder in the most recently used list and,

accordingly, Claim 19 was different from the references cited. However, the Examiner additionally suggested adding a functional claim with similar scope to Claim 19, which applicants' attorney agreed to.

Rejection of Claims 1-10, 12-15, 19-21, 25, and 27 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a):

Applicants have amended Claims 1, 6-7, 12-15, 21, 25, and 27 to indicate that the present application applies to both registered and unregistered applications. As already noted by the Examiner during the interview of November 7, 2001, none of the cited and applied references teach

One or more operating system provided file operation dialog boxes which are accessible by one or more registered or unregistered application programs of the computer and which are defined independently of the one or more registered or unregistered application programs to specify a file container associated with the predetermined file-container icon as a default document container for files related to the one or more registered or unregistered application programs (emphasis added).

In light of the agreement reached in the telephone interview discussed above, applicants respectfully submit that the 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) rejection of Claims 1-10, 12-15, 19-21, 25, and 27 over Windows95 has been overcome and respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Similarly, for all the reasons stated above with regard to Claims 1-10, 12-15, 19-21, 25, and 27, applicants submit that Claim 11 is allowable as well.

LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS^{PLLC}
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100





CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application as amended, allowance of the claims remaining in this application and passage of the application to issue at an early date are respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions or comments concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned attorney at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR
JOHNSON KINDNESS^{PLLC}

Adam L.K. Philipp
Registration No. 42,071
Direct Dial No. 206.695.1792

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the below date.

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LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS^{PLLC}
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100



VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE DECEMBER 26, 2001

In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1, 6-7, 12-15, 21, 25 and 27. All pending claims are listed below for the Examiner's convenience:

1. (Four Times Amended) A graphical user interface for a computer, comprising:

a screen;

a predetermined file-container icon displayed on the screen; and

one or more operating system provided file-operation dialog boxes which are accessible by one or more registered or unregistered application programs of the computer and which are defined independently of the one or more application programs to specify a file container associated with the predetermined file-container icon as a default document container for files related to the one or more application programs.

6. (Amended) A computerized system comprising:

a predetermined file-storage container; and

an operating system which defines the predetermined file-storage container as a default file-storage container on file-operation dialog windows accessible by registered or unregistered application programs.

7. (Amended) The computerized system of Claim 6, further comprising a master file containing global information pertinent to the computer system, such that information regarding a physical storage device to which the [predetermine] predetermined file-storage container relates is stored therein.

12. (Three Times Amended) A method of operating a computer system including one or more registered or unregistered applications and an operating system, the method comprising:

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CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS^{PLLC}
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100

determining whether one of the applications has specified a folder for storing files related to the one application;

determining whether the one application has redirected file storage from the folder to a current folder; and

determining whether files within the current folder are of one or more particular types; and

setting a default folder for storing, files related to the one application, wherein the operating system sets the default folder, provided that the one application has not specified a folder, that the one application has not redirected file storage to the current folder, and that no file stored within the current folder is of the one or more particular types.

13. (Four Times Amended) A computer comprising:

a processor;

a memory; and

an operating system executed by the processor from the memory to provide a predetermined file-storage folder as a default folder on file operation dialog boxes accessible by a plurality of registered or unregistered application programs, wherein the file operation dialog boxes are defined independently of the application programs.

14. (Four Times Amended) A computer-readable medium having an operating system stored thereon for execution on a computer to provide a predetermined file-storage folder as a default folder on file operation dialog boxes accessible by one or more registered or unregistered application programs, wherein the file operation dialog boxes are defined independently of the one or more computer application programs.

15. (Three Times Amended) An operating system comprising one or more file-management modules defined to provide a default file-storage folder to one or more registered or

unregistered computer application programs, wherein the one or more file-management modules are defined independently of the one or more computer application programs.

21. (Amended) An operating system comprising a graphical user interface which includes: a desktop that provides access to a predetermined file-storage container and to one or more registered or unregistered application programs; and one or more file-operations windows accessible by registered or unregistered application programs, wherein each file-operations window includes a link to the desktop.

25. (Twice Amended) A computer system for executing one or more registered or unregistered applications and an operating system, the system comprising:

means for determining whether one of the applications has specified a folder for storing files related to the one application;

means for determining whether the one application has redirected file storage from the folder to a current folder;

means for determining whether files within the current folder are of one or more particular types; and

operating system means for automatically setting a default folder for storing files related to the one application, provided that the one application has not specified a folder for storing files, that the application has not redirected file storage to the current folder, and that no file stored within the current folder is of the one or more particular types.

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CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS^{PLLC}
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100

27. (Three Times Amended) A method comprising:

the operating system of a computer system providing a default document folder for use by two or more registered or unregistered application programs before initiating installation of the application programs on the computer system; and

displaying an icon associated with the default document folder during a file operation relating to one or more of the application programs.

Claim 28 has been added.

LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS^{PLLC}
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100

